

House Bill 570

By: Representatives Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup> and Allison of the 8<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to hunting, trapping, or fishing, so as to change certain provisions relating to permits  
3 to kill deer causing damage to crops; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws;  
4 and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
8 hunting, trapping, or fishing, is amended by revising Code Section 27-2-18, relating to  
9 permits to kill deer causing damage to crops, as follows:

10 "27-2-18.

11 The department shall be authorized to issue to a person who cultivates crops, who is  
12 immediately responsible for their cultivation, or who is the principal owner of the crops a  
13 permit to kill deer which have caused or are reasonably certain to cause damage to crops  
14 which were planted for the purpose of harvesting ~~and~~ or marketing such crops or their  
15 by-products. The person shall apply to the department for such a permit on a form  
16 containing such information as may be necessary for the proper evaluation and  
17 consideration of the application. Permits shall be issued only in cases where the  
18 department has determined that the killing of deer is justified. Representatives of the  
19 department are authorized to investigate claims of damage and the necessity of killing deer  
20 prior to the issuance of such a permit. Permits issued by the department shall include  
21 restrictions and conditions relative to the property on which deer may be killed, persons  
22 authorized to kill deer on the property, crops which may be protected, number and sex of  
23 deer which may be killed, expiration of permit, and such other restrictions and conditions  
24 as may be necessary. It shall be unlawful for any person to kill any deer under the  
25 authority of any such permit except in accordance with the restrictions and conditions of  
26 the permit."

27 **SECTION 2.**

28 This Act shall become effective on the first day of the month following the month in which  
29 it is approved by the Governor or becomes law without such approval.

30 **SECTION 3.**

31 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.